

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 to be independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claims 6, from which claims 8 and 10 previously depended. Applicants have canceled claims 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 21-26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Since the foregoing amendments merely rewrite claims in independent form and cancel claims, the amendments do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. Moreover, the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth hereinafter or, at least, in better form for consideration on appeal by materially reducing or simplifying issues on appeal. Therefore, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is requested.

In view of the cancellation of claims 6, 7, 9, 13, 16, 21, 22, 24 and 25, the rejection of these claims in numbered section 3 of the Office Action is moot.

In view of the cancellation of claims 23 and 26, the rejection of these claims in numbered section 5 of the Office Action is moot.

Applicants note the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10, 14, 17 and 20 and in claims 8, 11, 12, 15, 18 and 19. Noting that claims 8 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, that claims 11 and 12 are already in independent form and that the remaining claims all depend from one of claims 8, 10, 11 or 12, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims now in the application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 1204.46402X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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